List the New Testament passages that mention how false teachers use lofty, enticing, crafty words to entice or deceive. Narrowed it down strictly to verses where the wording itself explicitly highlights “speech” (e.g., smooth talk, persuasive/empty/feigned words).

The New Testament explicitly connects false teachers with deceptive *speech* using terms like smooth, persuasive, empty, or feigned words in a relatively small cluster of texts.

Key explicit “speech” texts

- **Romans 16:17–18** – “…by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naïve.” The emphasis is directly on their “good words and fair speeches” as the means of deception.[1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
- **Colossians 2:4** – “This I say, that no one may delude you with persuasive [enticing] speech/arguments” (πιθανολογία, “plausible sophistry,” “specious discourse”). The stress is on plausible-sounding discourse that misleads.[6] [7] [8] [9]
- **Ephesians 5:6** – “Let no one deceive you with empty words,” warning that vacuous but persuasive speech is the vehicle of deception.[8] [10]
- **2 Peter 2:3** – “In their greed they will exploit you with deceptive/feigned words” (πλαστοῖς λόγοις, “fabricated,” “counterfeit tales”). Their *words* themselves are artificial constructs used for exploitation.[11] [12] [13] [14]
- **2 Peter 2:18** – “For, speaking out arrogant [great swelling] words of vanity, they entice…” Their boastful, empty utterances are the instrument of seduction.[13] [8]
- **Jude 16** – These people are “loud-mouthed boasters” who “flatter people for the sake of gain,” explicitly tying their flattering speech to self-interested manipulation.[10] [13]

Closely related “speech” warnings (general, but used of deceivers)

These do not always name “false teachers” in the immediate verse but are widely applied to them and still explicitly highlight deceptive speech:

- **Ephesians 4:14–15** – False teaching involves “the trickery of men, in craftiness in deceitful scheming,” connected with being carried about by “every wind of teaching,” which presupposes manipulative communicative tactics.[6] [10]

- **1 Timothy 4:1–2** – Describes “liars” speaking “hypocritical” words, whose teaching comes from deceitful spirits; their verbal lies are the medium of error.[10]
- **2 Peter 2:1** – False teachers “secretly introduce destructive heresies,” implying covert, misleading teaching content, although without a specific speech adjective in this verse.[15] [16] [17]

If you want an even tighter list limited to verses where *lexically* the vehicle of deception is “words/speech” plus an explicit qualifier (smooth, persuasive, empty, feigned, boastful), that list would be: **Romans 16:18; Colossians 2:4; Ephesians 5:6; 2 Peter 2:3, 18; Jude 16.**[3] [12] [14] [11] [13] [8] [6]

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1. https://www.bibleref.com/Romans/16/Romans-16-18.html
2. https://biblehub.com/romans/16-18.htm
3. https://www.biblegateway.com/verse/en/Romans 16:18
4. https://www.bible.com/bible/compare/ROM.16.18
5. https://www.biblestudytools.com/romans/16-18-compare.html
6. https://biblehub.com/colossians/2-4.htm
7. https://www.bibleref.com/Colossians/2/Colossians-2-4.html
8. http://biblehub.com/greek/4086.htm
9. https://www.studylight.org/commentary/colossians/2-4.html
10. https://www.openbible.info/topics/false_teachings
11. https://biblehub.com/lexicon/2_peter/2-3.htm
12. https://www.studylight.org/commentary/2-peter/2-3.html
13. https://explorethebible.lifeway.com/uncategorized/on-guard/
14. https://superiorword.org/2-peter-2-3/
15. https://biblehub.com/2_peter/2-3.htm
16. https://www.redeeminggracepittsburgh.com/sermons/sermon/2024-06-30/2-peter-2:1-10:-a-warning-against-false-teachers-part-1
17. https://lamarbaptist.org/sermons/false-teachers-and-gods-judgment-2nd-peter-21-10/
18. https://www.belovedwomen.org/blog/the-deceptive-power-of-flattery-what-the-bible-really-says
19. https://biblehub.com/proverbs/26-28.htm
20. https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/watch-out-for-those-who-lead-you-away-from-the-truth
21. https://www.facebook.com/groups/apprisingsupportdeck/posts/1413817692019338/
22. https://www.facebook.com/groups/298549307726102/posts/1884171295830554/
23. https://www.facebook.com/groups/1467776407084679/posts/1806171996578450/
24. https://pastorunlikely.com/33-chilling-bible-verses-on-false-teachers/